

2015

IOWA  
TRAILS  
SUMMIT

# IOWA TRAILS SUMMIT

JUNE 12, 2015

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S (UNI)  
CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
1227 W. 27TH ST. | CEDAR FALLS



REGISTER TODAY AT: [IowaTrailsSummit.org/2015-registration](http://IowaTrailsSummit.org/2015-registration)

# WELCOME

## BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS WHEN PEOPLE AND PLACES COME TOGETHER

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Trails Summit brings together a diverse group of trails people - from experts in building, promoting and maintaining trails to individuals and groups that share a passion for outdoor recreation, our natural environment, and community development - with the desire to share their ideas and vision for a vibrant and healthy Iowa.

This award-winning event, recognized by the National Park Service's Mid America Trails & Greenways for its unique approach, features a power-packed group of experts on trails, sharing their experiences, innovations and ideas for Iowa trails.

There will be special presentations on new trails attractions from all corners of Iowa, trails groups and trails supporters sharing information, and plenty of opportunities for networking, meeting new people, and sharing ideas.

Our master of ceremonies is Iowa's own master raconteur and trails enthusiast Chuck Offenburger.

For more information, please contact Peter Komendowski by email: [pkomendowski@gmail.com](mailto:pkomendowski@gmail.com) or phone: 319-269-8493.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

Chuck Offenburger  
**Master of ceremonies**



Chuck Offenburger is an Iowa writer, bicyclist, and longtime advocate for Iowa's recreational trails.

He lives on an acreage near Cooper in west central Iowa, adjacent to the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

He and his wife Carla Offenburger were founding members of the RRVT Association.

Offenburger is a former Des Moines Register feature columnist who was co-host of RAGBRAI for 16 years.

You can keep up with the Offenburgers at: [www.Offenburger.com](http://www.Offenburger.com)

John Barber, Dan Heiderscheid,  
and Brenna Fall, P.E. (top to bottom)

### Morning keynote



John Barber, formerly of Snyder & Associates along with Dan Heiderscheid, formerly of Kemin Industries share their view of people, places, and how trails touch a passion for living.



Their separate perspectives come from each being owners of a winery and brewery.



Their presentations will conclude with Brenna Fall, P.E. with hundreds of miles of trail design experience sharing her thoughts on trails and connections to community amenities.

Lin Bruce  
**Afternoon keynote**



Lin Bruce is a late blooming cross country cyclist whose first transcontinental bike ride was in honor of her sixtieth

birthday in 1999. In the years since, she has crossed the U.S. four times and bicycled 900 miles to her 50th high school reunion, among other adventures.

Lin is a retired massage therapist, mother of four, grandmother of eight, wife of retired librarian turned yoga teacher.

A native of Wyoming, she attended University of Wyoming completing a degree in Natural Sciences.

For more than forty years Lin has been a Northfield MN resident living her own version of an ordinary life.

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S (UNI) CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1227 W. 27TH ST. ♦ CEDAR FALLS, IA 50614

8 A.M. - 4:45 P.M. ♦ FEE: \$45 (includes parking, lunch, and snacks)

8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

### Registration and networking

Exhibitor area

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

### Welcome and introductions

Chuck Offenburger

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

### Panel Session 1: Rescue Stories from Iowa Emergency Personnel

First response challenges and procedures when an emergency happens on public lands, trails and waterways.

Panelists:

- Rob Inouye, Captain – Cedar Falls Fire Rescue
- Jason Dolf, Fire Chief – Raymond Fire Rescue

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### Morning Keynote: From rolling countryside to high trestles, wineries, and breweries – the journey is fun and destinations matter.

- John Barber – formerly of Snyder & Associates
- Dan Heiderscheid
- Brenna Fall, P.E.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Morning break and snacks

Exhibitor area

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

### Panel Session 2: Iowa Water Trails – Making Waves & History in Iowa

Panelists:

- Dr. Jim Pease – Retired ISU Biology Professor
- Teva Dawson – Senior Planner at Des Moines MPO
- Josh Dansdill – Water Trails Coordinator, NE Iowa RC&D

11:15 a.m. – noon

### Highlights of Exciting New Trails and Trails Activities in Iowa

MATAG, Whiterock. Manchester Whitewater, Iowa DOT Bike and Pedestrian Plan, and others to be announced!

Noon – 1 p.m.

### Box lunch on site

Exhibitor area

1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

### Highlights of Exciting New Trails and Trails Activities in Iowa cont.

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

### Panel Session 3: Grab your shoes, horse, 4-wheeler, snowmobile, or only your imagination - Iowa Trails are for everyone.

Moderated by Whitney Davis

Panelists:

- **Mountain Biking**  
Randy Burke – Linn CCB Planner

### • Equestrian

Laurie Carnahan – Chair of the Iowa Horse Council's trails committee

### • Snowmobiling

Rhonda Fowler – Iowa DNR OHV/Snowmobile administrator and education coordinator

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

### Afternoon break and snacks

Exhibitor area

2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Afternoon keynote: Lin Bruce: The Journey from Ordinary Life to ADVENTURE

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

### Panel Session 4: Iowa Bike Trails, A Peak into the future - Let the Journey Begin!

Moderated by Kevin Blanshan

Panelists:

- Lisa Hein, INHF
- Milly Ortiz-Pagan, Iowa DOT
- Brent Johnson with Bike Tech
- Chuck Offenburger

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

### Closing by Chuck Offenburger and friends!

# PARKING MAP



# OPTIONAL TRAINING

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015 – WATER TRAILS DAY

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S (UNI) CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
(CONFERENCE SITE) ♦ 1227 W. 27TH ST. ♦ CEDAR FALLS, IA 50614

FEE: \$45 PER DAY (includes parking, lunch, and snacks)

### Schedule (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Arrive and Register with Trails Summit</b>	Noon – 1 p.m.	<b>Box lunch provided</b>
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Morning session</b>	1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Afternoon session</b>
9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<b>Break, snacks, and exhibitors</b>	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Break, snacks, and exhibitors</b>
10 a.m. – noon	<b>Morning session resumes</b>	2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon session concludes</b>

### Engaging the Public in our River Corridors: How we do this best

Morning Session (8:30 a.m. – noon)

**NATURALISTS: We Need You!** While our DNR Water Trails program prioritizes resources for state water trails, we recognize the importance of all our state's waterways. River recreation is increasing as more and more people are waking up to the benefits our rivers and streams have to offer. According to a 2010 river use survey conducted by ISU Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, nearly half of all Iowans (48 percent) visited a river or stream in the state in 2009. The Outdoor Recreation Industry reports over the past several years consecutive increases in paddlesport recreation. They also reported in 2013 that 47 percent of all participants who recreated outdoors selected "being close to nature" as the reason why they recreate, but what does that mean?

*How can we as natural resources professionals provide for a more rich and meaningful experience for existing users of our rivers and streams? How can we attract more Iowans who haven't had this opportunity in ways that are safe, responsible, respectful, and fun? How can we leverage river users in ways that can benefit our natural resources?*

**LET'S START THE DIALOGUE:** This will be a collaborative effort that identifies what has worked in the past and the potential pitfalls to avoid. It will include a brainstorming session to identify new ways to engage the public in our river corridors, not just water trails. To assist us we've put together the following panel of experts: Jean Eells, Marlene Ehresman, Doug Harr, Jen Kurth, Jim Pease, and Mary Skopec.

### Advancing the understanding of Local Archaeology by engaging Community Volunteers

Afternoon Session (1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

**Chérie E. Haury-Artz has a B.A. in Anthropology from State University of New York at Potsdam and an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Kansas, Lawrence; representing the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA).** Information and resources on how to coordinate pedestrian surveys with community volunteers to comb an archaeological site with a professional archaeologist and advance the

understanding of local archaeology while simultaneously increasing public awareness and appreciation for our cultural resources. This will include a field trip to a local archaeological site nearby. While the classroom portion of this is open to all who register, only 15 can participate in the field work—the first 15 to register will have this opportunity if they so choose.

# OPTIONAL TRAINING

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015 – U.S. NATIONAL GRID

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S (UNI) CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
(CONFERENCE SITE) ♦ 1227 W. 27TH ST. ♦ CEDAR FALLS, IA 50614

FEE: \$45 PER DAY (includes parking, lunch, and snacks)

### Schedule (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Arrive and Register</b>	Noon - 1 p.m.	<b>Box lunch provided</b>
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Morning session:</b> <i>What is the United States National Grid (USNG) and how it is changing the way first responders communicate the “language of location” — Rob Inouye, Cedar Falls Fire Rescue</i>	1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Afternoon session:</b> <i>How do you use the USNG? From USNG gridded maps, to GPS units, to smartphone apps; putting the USNG to use for trail users safety. Participants will learn how to read the USNG on maps.</i>
9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<b>Break, snacks, and exhibitors</b>	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Break, snacks, and exhibitors</b>
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	<b>Morning session resumes:</b> <i>How other states are using the USNG to improve trail users safety. — Steve Swazee, Shared Geo</i>	2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon session resumes:</b> <i>Putting the USNG to use outside. Participants will use USNG maps on the UNI campus.</i>
11 a.m. – noon	<i>How GIS professionals help implement USNG in your jurisdiction. — Jason Dolf, Aerial Services</i>	4:30 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>

### Overview and Objectives

#### Overview: Creating a common “language of location” along Iowa’s Trail Systems

First Responders often have the challenge of communicating clearly a location when there is not an exact address. The “language of location” created by using the United States National Grid (USNG) System quickly and accurately assists first responders to identify locations when there is no address and be able to clearly relay that location. Adoption and implementation of the USNG in Iowa can assist in improved communication of location on Iowa’s public lands. This course will help local policy makers, volunteers, GIS experts, and local first responders understand the value of the USNG for use on all public lands to include multiuse trails and waterway trails.

This workshop will include both classroom discussion of how to implement the USNG along Iowa’s trails to include trail marker systems and GIS tools, as well as an outside,

hands-on portion to show how the USNG can be used to enhance communication of a location when an address is unknown.

#### Course objectives:

- Provide a brief history of the United States National Grid development.
- Understand the operational necessity for use of the USNG mapping tools to communicate location for better situational awareness, command and control and search and rescue for first responders at all levels.
- Understand how to identify, read, and relay USNG coordinates.
- Learn about the various technologies to include maps, smart phone apps and GPS receivers to identify USNG coordinates.
- Discuss how to implement the USNG in fire department jurisdictions.